

- Here we go again. This is another case of mass usage creating a problem, and yet none of the mass users want to give it up. "Somebody else can stop boating. Not me." Selfishness at its finest "Well if I can't stop then I want the river ecosystem to fail and the fish to die off!"
- Unanswered questions. Material suspended in the water creates turbidity. Coming off the spring flood, and diminishing water quantity will necessarily increase the amount of suspended material. It's simply a matter of material versus liquid. Less liquid, same amount of material, increased turbidity. I think before changes related to the issue of turbidity can be instituted, we need to answer the question of whether or not it is caused by anything we're doing. I'd have to say I have an open mind regarding whether or not it is. I wonder about others, involved in the decision making process... or not.
- TURBIDITY : There's about a half dozen ways to deal with this... smaller boats, less weight, different design, less boat traffic. What we're going to get is a study on the study having to do with the study of the problem that the Kenai watershed forum did a study on... Nobody has the guts to make a decision, so the studies will keep coming, in the meantime the river suffers!
- Sounds to me the DEC has been trying to cover up some "issues" that have been going on for YEARS. Time for the EPA to get involved. When is the State of AK going to start doing what's in the best interest of the river instead of a certain user group. Time to put limits on the amount of boats on the river. Our river can not handle 700 boats on it at one time.
- NO EPA: Not an easy issue but god help us all here in Alaska if the EPA gets involved. Please do some research on the EPA and Lisa Jackson. The last thing this state needs is the EPA taking lead on this issue. easy solution: There is a very easy solution to this problem. Do not allow motors above the Warren Ames bridge. No motor, no wake, no turbidity, no hydrocarbons, no EPA, no problem.
- AKMainelac. My own personal experience. I worked for QAP putting in the reservoir over the hill by the Aspen hotel in Soldotna. When we were putting that in we weren't allowed to have any muddy water enter the river. We accomplished this by pumping the dirty water into a temporary holding pond we made with straw bales lined with filter cloth, this got rid of most of the muddy stuff, what filtered out of there filtered through more straw bales and flowed a hundred feet or so through a grassy area to the river. My job was to make sure the water going into the river was clean. If muddy water got a foot or so into the river (and it dissipated 3 or 4 feet downstream) I shut down the pump and let it settle till it was clean again. When a boat would come along and the wake would leave 6' of muddy water all up and down the bank I remember thinking "what's the point in doing this"? We could've pumped all that muddy water straight into the river, saved the state a lot of money and it wouldn't have been a speck compared to what a 100 boats would do. So yes spring break up clouds up the water but this was in June and July. A heavy rain clouds the water but not 6 days a week all fishing season long.

- Like I said, got an open mind. But I require something from a scientific standpoint that shows the cause and effect. I know too that the specific material in question is different from your example. Effluent discharge from earth moving has a tendency to run the gamut from "heavy" to "light" and settles out at varying rates accordingly. The lightest stuff never settles... the heaviest stuff doesn't make it down this far unless it's full spring flood conditions. Accumulated glacial silt is likely a very different critter, being quite light in many cases and not settling quickly. I think it is possible to find a way to maintain the river, and use it as well, respecting the safety and viability of the river. But we need to have to discussion and to do that we need the data. Keep following as I will and maybe participation and thought will rule the
- silt: The work area on that job was an area that has been laid down by the river flooding through the ages, so the material might not be so different as it would be in most places. I agree 110% on the first sentence and the last paragraph of your comment. I just hope science will win out over money and the special interests that seem to think they are propitiatory and the river owes
- This isn't new, But by all means increase the horsepower limitation from 35 to 50 and ignore the evidence that semi-v hulls create greater turbidity levels than flat-bottom boats. Thank you State Parks and the Department of Natural Resources for catering to the river guides. You've demonstrated your ineptness once again.
- The truth emerges: Seven hundred boats, more than 500 of them guide boats, churning up and down the river. King salmon, the very fish they seek, rear within 6 feet of the bank. Turbidity is ruining the king salmon's habitat. These clowns are killing the river and the fish that make it world famous. Do the guides take a hard look at their own activities? Do they consider the damage they are doing to the river that is the lifeblood of this peninsula? No, they use their high-powered lobbyists at the Kenai River Sportfishing Association to point fingers at everyone but themselves, commercial guides. They'll keep going until they've taken all they can and then they'll go home to the Lower 48.
Folks, we've got to open our eyes and put limits on the number of guides on the Kenai River before they kill it. They've already decimated the early run, they're demanding more of the late run. What's left?
- Drift Only Day: Monday drift boat only fishing has been a wonderful pleasure on the Kenai. Adding another drift boat day has been proposed to BOF many times, many ways and the "power" groups saw that the proposals failed each time. An eight hour drift boat trip down the Kenai, fishing or not, should bring a very premium fee to the guide industry, please try to add just one more drift boat only day. Maybe drift only is the back to the future answer.

- Save the River: Should make the guides limited entry and IFQs like the commercial fishing. The guides are taking way to many fish out of the system and has become big business with no repercussion in the fishery. The river can't handle that many boats day in and day out.
- King Salmon Task Force: The board of fish formed a Cook Inlet King Salmon Task force which met yesterday. Since the Board of Fish is tasked first and foremost with protecting our resource, one would have thought this would be a topic of discussion. It was not. I believe BOF guidelines specifically state that if the amount of inriver activity is deemed detrimental to the ecosystem, steps need to be take to mitigate these issue.
- Instead, the discussion was focused around how to keep all of our user groups fishing while catching less fish. Primarily, how to keep the East Side Setnetters from catching kings since they were benched last year. It seems a shortsighted, reactive goal. It's disappointing that residents of a conservative, highly indepentant community such as ours feel (appropriatly) that our state and local government is not protecting our fisheries or our resource, and they have nowhere to turn but the federal government (EPA). I too fear their involvement, but not as much as I fear what will happen if no one pushes for change. It's time for our state to step up and protect our resource and the communities that depend on it. It's time for our communities to step up and insist that the state do so.
- Kenai River Kings: As i said about 8 yrs ago when i went on a free king fishing trip, one of the possible dozen i have done in 35+ yrs and we could hardly get down river past Beaver Creeks crowd of side by side boats, these out of state people will kill this fishery and go back home to their dead rivers someday soon. Drift boats only for kings is a good idea, or no permits if you don't live here yr round.
You know the thing that may be causing the shortage of Kings is that nature has also decided that the natural union between male and female salmon is not the right way to go and we are seeing the decline due to this freedom of choice. But then ALL of nature usually knows better than this lie, so that can't be the cause. I would say that it's due to over fishing of out of state guides and also that the drift fleet & set netters catch alot of kings which are caught during the sockeye peak in july, july is when the Big
- The Kenai River: I spent over 30 years fishing the Kenai River. We went from an average 60 to 70 for Chinook, to whatever the average size fish is today, (35 to 45lb) . I have said for years that the Kenai needs to be saved. Do that by reducing the number of guides to 2 per river mile, up to the Soldotna bridge. Make it 4 if they go drift only. Then make guides a limited entry event, and charge the guides a premium price for the "honor" to guide on the Kenai River. Save the river, save the fish.....!!!!
- Another problem with boat wakes? Having stood in the river while sockeye fishing countless times, I've seen the river "mud up" due to passing boat countless times. I've always wondered

about the effects of boat wakes, besides the obvious one, increased bank erosion. What harm wake-caused turbidity might be doing to the fish and their habitat isn't going to be easy to answer. Maybe getting the EPA involved will relieve the state from having to study this and force it to take action to prevent it. Another wake-caused effect I wonder about is whether the constant wakes, such as those present in July, displace rearing fish due to the constant surge of the water near the bank. In the Sterling area, I see lots of juvenile salmon near the vegetated shoreline, but not so many downstream from Soldotna, where waves constantly pound the bank in July. If I was a 2-inch-long fish, I wouldn't want to eat in the surf. Seems to me, a study of this effect should be doable and not too difficult.

- Drift boat only: Its time to put limits on number of guide on the river. Start a limited entry permit and drift boat only. If no action is not done there will be no fish for the future generation. Have to look at the big picture and the whole ecosystem.
- Again the Kenai River makes News: The interest in the Kenai River is gaining, let everyone continue to know about the health of the river issues and hopefully there will be a solution brought about by these concerns. "Report Says Lower Kenai River Violates Water Standards" By Lori Townsend, APRN – Anchorage <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2012/11/20/report-says-lower-kenai-river-vio...>
- This Is News? With all the activity on this river, did you really expect it to turn out pristine? LOL! There is TOO MUCH PRESSURE on this river system. Too many guides, too many people, too many hooks in the water, and too many men pissing into the water. How about: Folks who's last names begin with A thru G fish this day; folks who's last names begin with H thru etc. fish this other day. Stupid, but just might work
- Under The Ice: What's going on in the Kenai when it's frozen?